

Appl. No. 10/617,004
Amdt. Dated March 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 89240.0002
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were pending in the Application. By this Amendment, Claims 17 and 20 are being canceled and claims 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are being rewritten in independent form. No new matter is involved.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 17 and 20 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,989,419 of Brando et al. In response, Applicant is canceling claims 17 and 20, thereby obviating this rejection.

At the bottom of page 2, claims 1-16 are said to be allowed over the prior art of record.

As also stated at the bottom of page 2, claims 18, 19 and 21-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicant is rewriting claims 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24 in independent form so as to make them allowable. Claim 23 depends from claim 22 and contains all of the limitations thereof so as to also be allowable.

In conclusion, claims 1-16, 18, 19 and 21-24 should be in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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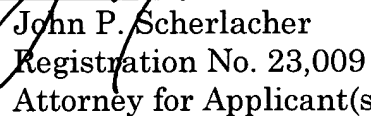
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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: March 11, 2005

By: _____


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